

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03273 01 OF 03 051339Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04 /173 W

----- 119682

O R 051105Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5225

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03273 01 OF 03 051339Z

CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 3273

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - MARCH 5, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE COASTAL CITY OF KAMPOT TOOK THE MILITARY SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEK AS ENEMY ATTACKS DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE ENCLAVE'S PERIMETER AND CAUSED SOME FEARS FOR ITS SURVIVAL. A VERY RAPID FANK REINFORCEMENT ACTION HAD STABLIZED THE SITUATION BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, HOWEVER. OTHER PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND PHNOM PENH ITSELF CONTINUED TO EXPAND AND CONSOLIDATE THEIR DEFENSES. ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF THE ENCLAVES, KOMPONG THOM, PLAYED HOST TO THE PRESIDENT, THE ENTIRE CABINET AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FOR A CEREMONY WELCOMING THE SOME 22,000 REFUGEES WHOM FANK OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS HAVE PERMITTED TO GAIN GOVERNMENT-HELD TERRITORY. IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED TO REBUILD FANK'S INTERVENTION FORCES BEFORE THE NEXT ENEMY HIGH POINT, THE PRIME MINISTER DIRECTED THAT A NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORT BE LAUNCHED ON MARCH 5 CONCURRENT WITH TABULATION OF THE PHNOM PENH CENSUS. THE POLITICAL SCENE WAS QUIET THIS WEEK BUT A GOVERNMENT SPONSORED POLL REPORTEDLY SHOWING OVERWHELMING SUPPORT AMONG THE NATION'S TEACHERS FOR A RECENT RADICAL ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03273 01 OF 03 051339Z

IS CAUSING SOME UNEASINESS.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL TOOK THE HOUSE AND SENATE PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTER, FANK C-IN-C, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO KOMPONG THOM TO MEET SOME OF THE 22,000 PEOPLE WHO HAVE RETURNED TO GKR CONTROL IN THE WAKE OF FANK THRUSTS INTO THE REGION SURROUNDING THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. THE MARSHAL

CONGRATULATED PROVINCE COMMANDER BRIGADIER GENERAL TIEP BEN, DECORATED VOLUNTARY AGENCY PERSONNEL FOR THEIR RELIEF WORK AMONG THE REFUGEES AND OFFERED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE OF TWO MILLION RIELS, BLANKETS, CLOTHING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND FOOD. IN ADDITION HE PROMISED 5,000 ARMS FOR AUTO-DEFENSE UNITS. IN A SPEECH TO KOMPONG THOM RESIDENTS LON NOL REFERRED APPROVINGLY TO SENATORS KENNEDY'S AND SCOTT'S RECENT CONDEMNATIONS OF SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH AND SENATOR KENNEDY'S DEMAND FOR MORE AID TO KHMER REFUGEES.

3. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ORDERED JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFFERS AND CITY OFFICIALS TO BEGIN A NEW DRAFT EFFORT CONCURRENT WITH TABULATION OF CENSUS RESULTS. TABULATION OF THE CENSUS WILL BEGIN WITH THE 18 -26 YEAR OLD MEN WHO WILL THEN IMMEDIATELY BE ADDED TO THE DISTRICTS' MANPOWER POOLS. IN THE MEANTIME THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN PICKED UP SOMEWHAT DUE IN LARGE PART TO PRESSURE FROM THE DESERTER/DRAFT DODGER ROUNDUP. THIS REPORTING PERIOD SAW THE CAPITAL FURNISH 374 MEN, MARKING THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK OF INCREASING ACCESSIONS. AS OF MARCH 4 (THE 145TH DAY OF THE CAMPAIGN) PHNOM PENH HAD SUPPLIED 15,168 OF 21,321 NEW RECRUITS.

4. LT. COL. SBONG VAR, THE COMMANDANT OF THE PRISON FROM WHICH THE NOTORIOUS EMBEZZLER MAJOR YIN KHENG ESCAPED, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH ON MARCH 1 AS AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE JAIL-BREAK. THE ARMY DAILY RUOM KAMLAING COMMENTED THAT THE VERDICT WAS NECESSARY SURGERY TOWARD CURING THE ARMY OF CORRUPTION.

5. IN A MARCH 2 BROADCAST THE INFORMATION MINISTRY NOTED
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 03273 01 OF 03 051339Z

THAT THE GKR INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF THE FOUR YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR SOWING PANIC JANUARY 26 (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS) IS NEARLY COMPLETE. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND MILITARY POLICE HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR INVESTIGATIONS AND AS SOON AS THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL RECEIVES THE G-2'S REPORT IT WILL BRING THE CASE TO TRIAL, THE INFORMATION MINISTRY EXPLAINED.

6. A GOVERNMENT SPONSORED POLL OF THE TEACHING CORPS HAS REPORTEDLY REVEALED A DISMAYING BUT NOT ALTOGETHER SUR-

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03273 02 OF 03 051357Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04 /173 W

----- 119851

O R 051105Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5226

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03273 02 OF 03 051357Z

CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 3273

PRISING AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR THE INTRANSIGENT STANCE OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS. TEACHERS WERE REUIRED TO SUBMIT SIGNED RESPONSES TO THREE QUESTIONS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH ASKED WHETHER THEY SUPPORTED THE FEBRUARY 6 DECLARATION OF SECONDARY TEACHERS (SEE FEBRUARY 12 KHMER REPORT). WHILE RESULTS OF THE POLL HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED, RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCES WITH ACCESS TO THE TABULATIONS REPORT THAT A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE TEACHERS BOTH IN PHNOM PENH AND IN THE PROVINCES SUPPORTED THE STRONGLY WORDED ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT. THE TEACHERS ALSO INDICATED APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY FORM PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS TO HELP COMBAT THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. CITING DECREASING SECURITY IN PHNOM PENH, THE INDIANS ARE FOLLOWING THE BURMESE LEAD IN CLOSING THEIR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH. THE GOI APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AT LEAST.

8. THE EAST GERMANS CONTINUE TO STRADDLE THE FENCE ON THE QUESTION OF CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION. ALTHOUGH GDR PUBLIC STATEMENTS STRONGLY SUPPORT GRUNK, THE CULTURAL ATTACHE REPRESENTING GKR INTERESTS IN EAST BERLIN HAS BEEN PER-
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03273 02 OF 03 051357Z

MITTED TO SET UP A SEPARATE EMBASSY OFFICE IN HIS APARTMENT AND HIS DIPLOMATIC CARD HAS BEEN RENEWED. AS FOR THE TWO DIPLOMATS IN EAST BERLIN WHO APPARENTLY DEFECTED TO GRUNK AND THEN RECANED (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS), THE GKR FOREIGN MINISTER HAS WRITTEN THEM A LETTER INVITING THEM TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH AND RESOLVE THEIR STATUS. NO RESPONSE HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED.

GRUNK/FUNK (INTERNAL)

9. ENEMY PROPAGANDA WAS DEFENSIVE AND SOMEWHAT DISORIENTED

DURING THE WEEK AS THE MILITARY SITUATION PROVIDED LITTLE GRIST FOR ITS MILL. DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISMS OF THE RECENT SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH, A LONG AKI REPORT RECITED THE USUAL LITANY THAT U.S. BOMBING PRIOR TO AUGUST 15 CREAATED "TERROR AND GENOCIDE", THAT CPNLAF ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACKS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS AND "TRAITORS" RESIDENCES ONLY, AND THAT IN ANY CASE THE POPULACE HAD BEEN WARNED IN ADVANCE TO EVACUATE PHNOM PENH. IN A TORTUOUS CONVOLUTION OF LOGIC, THE RADIO ALLEGED THAT THE GKR HAD PUT PEOPLE INTO CAMPS "NEAR STRATEGIC POINTS THEY KNOW TO BE THE TARGETS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARTILLERY". THE RADIO FURTHER CHARGED THAT CRITICISMS OF THE SHELLING ATTACKS (SUCH AS THOSE OF CHARGE' ENDERS) REPRESENT A CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER AND DENIGRATION. IN OTHER BROADCASTS, FUNK CLAIMED THAT FORMER CHMEDTC GENERAL CLELAND HAD "FLED" PHNOM PENH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE UNDER PRESSURE OF CPNLAF ATTACKS, TOOK SEVERAL SWIPES AT THE GKR CENSUS PROGRAM, AND STATED INGENUOUSLY THAT ITS FORCES "REMAIN MASTER OF THE SITUATION ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 38 AND ON THE PREK THNAOT RIVER".

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

10. SIHANOUK HAD PERHAPS HIS BUSIEST WEEK SINCE HE JOINED HIS AILING MOTHER IN CANTON. HE MET WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA IN CANTON ON FEBRUARY 27 AND THEN JOURNEYED TO PEKING TO HOLD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ON MARCH 1. SIHANOUK ATTENDED A BANQUET HOSTED BY BOUMEDIENE, AND GAVE ONE OF HIS OWN FOR THIS IMPORTANT "NON-CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 03273 02 OF 03 051357Z

ALIGNED" LEADER. SIHANOUK'S RESIDENT PROGENY, PRINCE

E E E E E E E

ADP000
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03273 03 OF 03 051712Z

47
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04 EB-11 AGR-20 /204 W

----- 122402

O R 051105Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5227
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03273 03 OF 03 051712Z

CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 3273

NOL'S ASSISTANTS, KHOUN CHHIEK, AS ITS HEAD. THE
FOUNDATION, DESCRIBED IN THE LONG BORET CABINET PRESENTA-

TION OF ITS PROGRAM TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAST DECEMBER, HAS THE MISSION OF RESETTLING REFUGEES IN SECURE AREAS OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH AND HELPING THEM CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATION'S PRODUCTION.

15. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 3 TOTALLED 32,622 METRIC TONS OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 50.2 DAYS SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF 650 M/T PER DAY. ACTUAL DAILY DISTRIBUTION FOR THIS PERIOD AVERAGED 573.5 M/T. ARRIVALS VIA THE MEKONG DURING THE WEEK WERE ONLY 8,514 M/T. THE REDUCTION (FROM THE 12,500 M/T ANTICIPATED IN LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT) WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT VIETNAMESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE FORMALITIES AT THE FRONTIER FOR THE CLEARANCE OF THE ENTIRE CONVOY. THE NEXT CONVOY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE MARCH 7, WILL CONTAIN THAT PORTION OF THE RICE NOT CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS, AND WILL BRING IN A TOTAL OF 9,958 M/T.

16. POL STOCKS ON HAND FOR CIVILIAN USE AS OF MARCH 2 WERE SUFFICIENT TO MEET PHNOM PENH'S BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD.

MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03273 03 OF 03 051712Z

17. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH FANK BROKE THROUGH A STUBBORN DEFENSIVE LINE AND FORCED ENEMY UNITS TO WITHDRAW TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE CITY. NORTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, CONTACTS CONTINUED WITH NEITHER SIDE ACHIEVING ANY SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE. ENEMY FORCES HAVE NOW BEEN PUSHED BACK OUT OF ARTILLERY RANGE OF PHNOM PENH, EXCEPT TO THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST.

18. BETWEEN THE BASSAC AND MEKONG RIVERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, ENEMY FORCES FORCED FANK INTO A NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS WHICH PROVED COSTLY TO BOTH SIDES. AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD SMALL ENEMY ELEMENTS SUCCEEDED IN INFILTRATING TO WITHIN FIVE KILOMETERS OF THE CITY; FANK REINFORCED AND BEGAN CLEARING OPERATIONS ON MARCH 5.

19. FANK CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL PERIMETER EXPANSION OPERATIONS IN SIEM REAP, KOMPONG CHHNANG, PREY VENG, TAKEO AND SVAY RIENG. KC TROOPS IN SOUTHWESTERN CAMBODIA, HOWEVER, MOUNTED STRONG ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AT KOMPOT AND SUCCEEDED IN FORCING FANK TO WITHDRAW TO A TIGHTER DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. THIS SUCCESS TAXED FANK RESERVE ASSETS AS THE 20TH BRIGADE AND SEVERAL MARINE UNITS WERE SENT TO REINFORCE KAMPOT.

20. ROUTE 4 WAS CUT ON MARCH 5 BETWEEN KOMPONG SPEU

AND PHNOM PENH, WEST OF ANG SNOUL, BY AN ESTIMATED
REGIMENTAL SIZE FORCE OVER A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY
SIX KILOMETERS. FANK HAS LAUNCHED A CLEARING OPERATION
AT BOTH ENDS OF THE CUT. ROUTE 5 REMAINS INTERDICTED.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, CONSCRIPTION, INFILTRATION, RICE, SUPPLIES, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, FANK, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM03273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740367/aaaackig.tel
Line Count: 444
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT - MARCH 5, 1974 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005